



USDA SERVICE CENTER NEWS

KINGS COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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Vol. 2006 No. 3

July 2006

ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE

July 17th is last day to timely report



In order to receive direct and counter cyclical payments under the current Farm Bill, all crops on all farms must be reported each year to your local FSA office. This also includes ALL fallow land, permanent crops, commodity crops, pasture, etc. If acreage reports are not made, direct and counter cyclical payments will not be made. The acreage reporting deadline for fall seeded crops was May 1st. Spring seeded crops must be reported by July 17th. This year, Kings County continues to participate in a pilot program using acreage reporting software utilizing GIS (Geographic Information System). This involves the process of reviewing acreages field by field using aerial photography on the computer, instead of using the traditional black and white paper photographs. In addition to the crop identified by the producer, planting dates are also being requested on a field by field basis. In some cases, variety (i.e. durum, white, red wheat) may be necessary as well. In order to minimize waiting time, appointments are highly recommended.

EMERGENCY LOANS AVAILABLE

On February 3, 2006, President Bush designated 29 counties in California as a primary disaster area due to damages and losses caused by severe storms, flooding, mudslides and landslides, that occurred from December 17, 2005 through and including January 3, 2006. Although Kings County was not a primary county, producers in Kings County may still be eligible because Kings County is contiguous to a primary declared county. In addition, on June 15, 2006, the U S Department of Agriculture designated Kings County as a primary disaster area due to losses caused by unprecedented rainfall and severe weather conditions that occurred from Dec 17, 2005 through April 26, 2006. Kings County farmers who suffered significant damage from either of these events may be eligible for low interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency if they are unable to get financing from any other source. These loans carry an interest rate of 3.75 percent. In situations of production loss, eligible farmers can also use emergency loan funds to recover a portion of losses on growing crops that were destroyed. For physical losses, eligible farmers can use emergency loan funds to repair or rebuild essential farm buildings, clean debris or prepare land for replanting, and to replace livestock, supplies and harvested crops on hand or in storage that were lost. Producers have eight months from the time the disaster declaration was made to apply for assistance. Under the Presidential declaration, the deadline is October 3, 2006. Under the Secretarial declaration, the deadline is February 15, 2007. Any questions concerning loans should be directed to the Farm Loan team in Visalia which services Kings County. They may be reached at (559) 734-8732 Ext 2.



FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Kings County Farm Service Agency is seeking interested farmers in the Corcoran area to serve as candidates for the local County Committee election to be held this fall. The Corcoran area includes land located south of Nevada Ave and east of 22nd Ave, as well as land south of Kansas Ave & east of 16th Ave. Nomination forms may be obtained from the county office, and must be signed by the candidate being nominated. The deadline to return nomination forms is August 1, 2006. Voting ballots will be mailed out by November 3, 2006. The last day to return voted ballots will be December 4, 2006. Farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers of legal voting age can vote if they are eligible to take part in any FSA program.



SIGNATURE AUTHORITIES FOR ALL PROGRAMS

A recent audit of county office records has revealed a need to verify that persons signing on behalf of others have a current and updated power of attorney. If legal papers (such as partnership agreements, corporation papers, trust agreements, etc.) do not specifically state that one partner/member may sign on behalf of the partnership/entity, new proof of signature authorization will be requested. This may be in the form of a power of attorney or some other legal document. Even if you have been allowed to sign in the past, you may be required to update your signature authority. Signature authority applies to both the partnership/entity itself, as well as the members. Form FSA-211, Power of Attorney Form, may be requested from any FSA County Office or obtained online. This form must be witnessed in any FSA County Office or notarized and only authorizes actions within the Farm Service Agency, Commodity Credit Corporation or Federal Crop Insurance Corporation programs. Power of Attorney can be given for all actions or only for specific items. Without a single signature authority, all partners/members will be required to sign most documents. Please check your partnership/entity papers as soon as possible, to see if you need to update your authorities.

RECORD CHANGES

Participation in FSA farm programs requires all records to be accurate and up to date. It is the producer's responsibility to inform FSA of changes to his/her farming operation including, but not limited to: land ownership changes, adding or dropping a tract of land (leases), entity type or ID number changes, marriage, divorce, deaths, or changes in your financial institution for direct deposit.



DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Final deadline for 2006 Program is September 30, 2006

Signup for the 2006 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) ended June 1, 2006. Farms not enrolled or missing signatures by June 1, 2006 are considered late filed and will be assessed a late-filed signup fee of \$100 per farm. No signups or signatures for the 2006 year will be accepted after September 30, 2006. Producers are reminded that signups are now taken annually for this program. Even if you signed up in 2005, you must sign a new contract for 2006. To be eligible for payments under DCP, owners, tenants, landlords, operators and sharecroppers must: 1) Share in the risk of producing a crop on base acres on a farm enrolled in DCP; 2) annually report the use of the farm's cropland acreage; 3) comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements on all of their land; 4) comply with planting flexibility requirements; 5) use the base acres for agricultural or related activities; 6) protect all base acres from erosion, as well as providing weed control and 7) meet all other eligibility requirements.

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